

REMARKS:

Amendments to claims

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly set out the present invention. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to define that the proximal opening of each of the hollow needles can be arranged in fluid communication with the same fluid inlet via the common fluid conduit member when the respective needle is in its second position.

The amendment is not intended to add subject-matter but is merely introduced to more clearly set out the limitation that the common conduit is adapted to connect each of the needles with the same fluid inlet via the common fluid conduit. It is submitted that this feature is obvious from the invention as disclosed in both the drawings and the corresponding specification.

Further, the last paragraph of claim 1 has been slightly rephrased.

Claim rejections – 35 USC 102

In the Office Action dated March 26, 2008 the Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-7, 12, 14-17, and 21 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Aceti et al. (US patent 7,004,928).

However, having regard to the comments made by the Examiner in the section headed Response to Arguments, it appears the Examiner reads claim 1 as then on file broader than intended by Applicants.

More specifically, former claim 1 defines “a common fluid conduit member having a fluid inlet” and then “the proximal opening being in fluid communication with the common fluid conduit member and thereby the fluid inlet when the needle is in its second position”. By the above limitation it was Applicants intention to define that the needles are brought in communication with the same fluid conduit member and the same fluid source/inlet when in the second position, however, the Examiner has stated that this intended limitation was not found in former claim 1.

Thus, to more clearly define the intended limitation claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the language suggested by the Examiner, e.g. that the hollow needles can be arranged in fluid communication with the same fluid inlet via the common fluid conduit member when the respective needle is in its second position.

With this amendment to claim 1 Applicants submit that claim 1 is now properly characterized over Aceti and that the previously forwarded arguments forwarded in support of the differences between Aceti and claim 1 (as now amended) can be fully appreciated. Applicants believe that it is not necessary to repeat the arguments in this reply.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant(s) submit(s) that the application is now in condition for allowance and issue and respectfully request(s) early action to that end. Applicant(s) believe(s) that no additional fees are due. However, should any fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this application and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1447. The undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him/her by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 25, 2008

/Marc A. Began, Reg. No. 48,829/

Marc A. Began, Reg. No. 48,829

Novo Nordisk Inc.

Customer Number 23650

(609) 987-5800

Please use the following Customer Number for all correspondence regarding this application

23650

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE